

MASTER OF
KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



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THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU™

THE *SON OF FU MANCHU* VS. THE
STEEL-SMASHING *SHADOW-STALKER*
IN THE MOST OFF-BEAT MARTIAL-
ARTS MASTERWORK OF THE YEAR!

DEATH OF A SPIRIT!



"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: That my name means "The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit," that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu, and that it might be used for the murder of a man called Dr. Petrie.

"Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu** the most insidiously evil man on earth... and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my *name*."

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!**™

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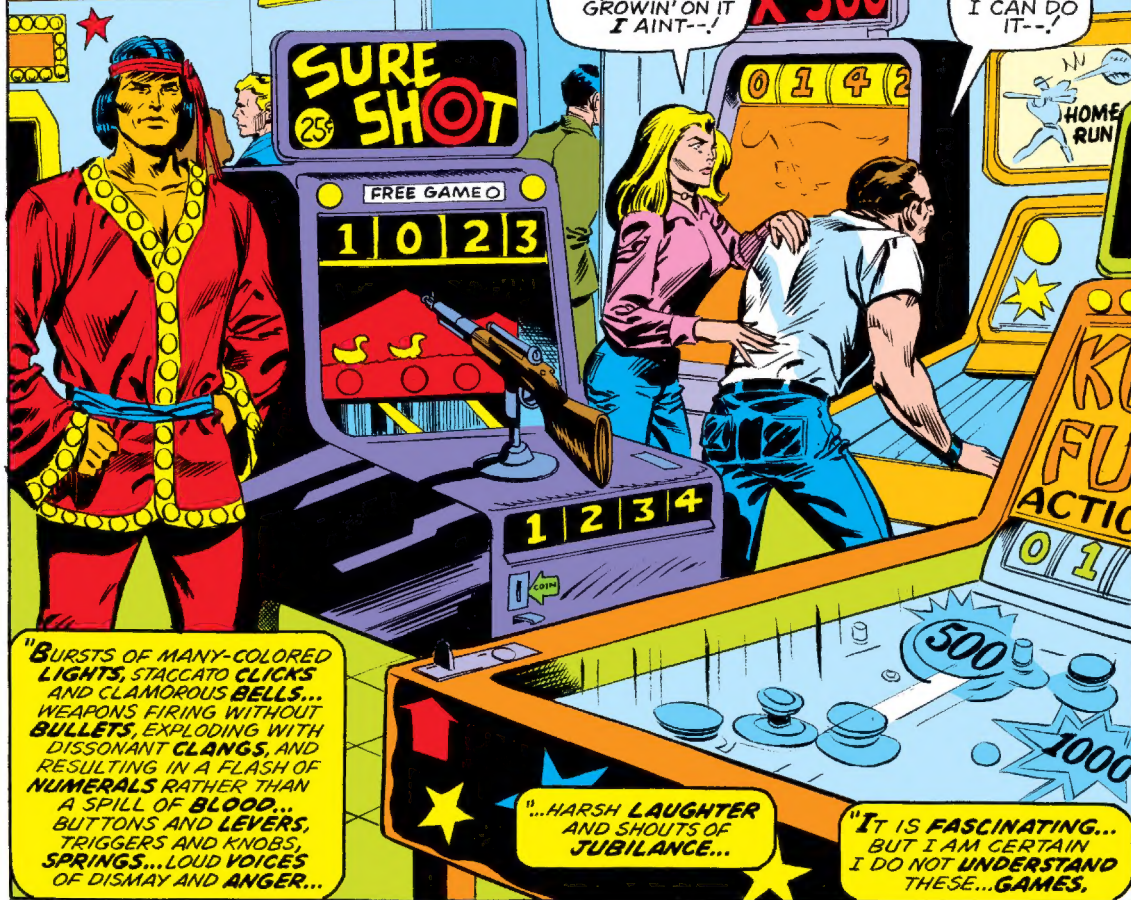
A SMALL SPIRIT SLOWLY SHAPED...

"I AM NOT CERTAIN I UNDERSTAND THIS PLACE, CALLED A PENNY ARCADE, NONE OF ITS BRIGHTLY PAINTED DEVICES WILL FUNCTION FOR ANY COIN LESS THAN TWENTY-FIVE CENTS. STILL, I HAVE COME HERE ONLY TO OBSERVE..."

FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD, FRANK-- WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE UP? A HENRY AARON YOU AIN'T--AND A TREE WITH QUARTERS GROWIN' ON IT I AINT--!

DON'T SPLIT YOUR LEVIS, JANET-- I JUST WANNA PLAY ONE MORE GAME.

I KNOW I CAN DO IT--!

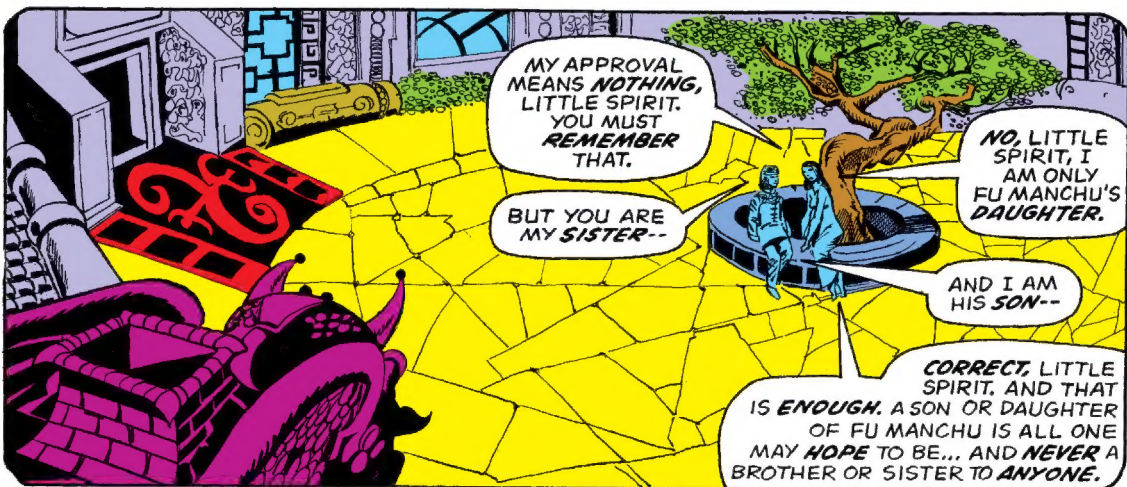
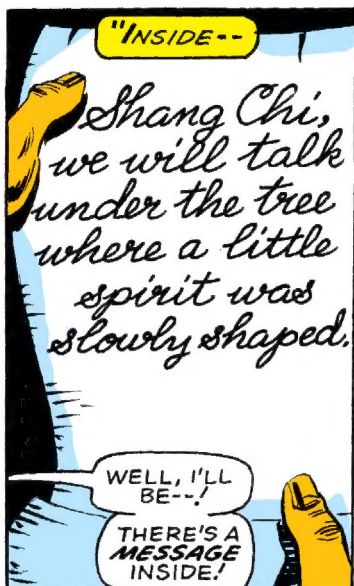


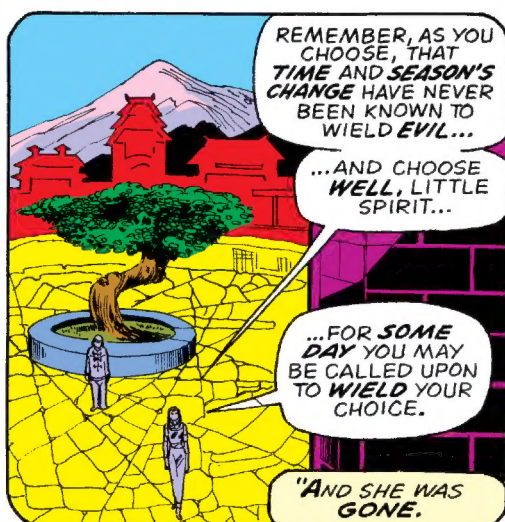
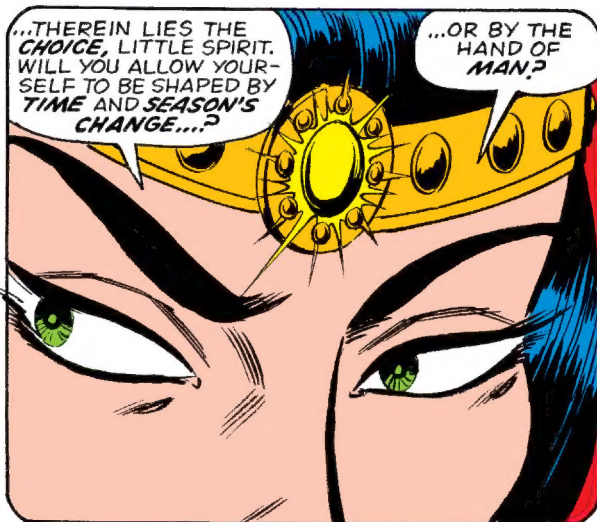
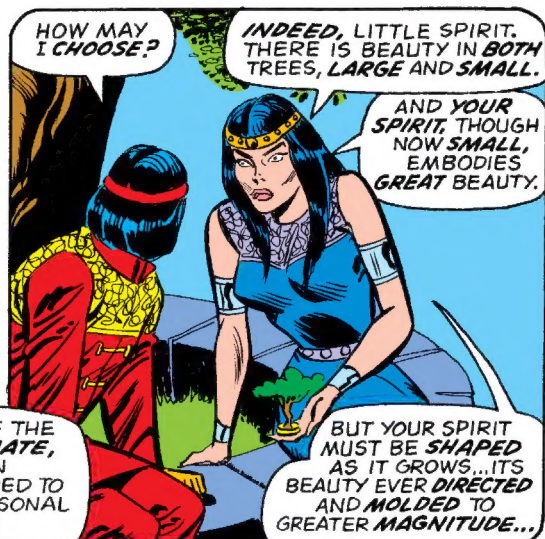
"BURSTS OF MANY-COLORED LIGHTS, STAGGATO CLICKS AND CLAMOROUS BELLS... WEAPONS FIRING WITHOUT BULLETS, EXPLODING WITH DISSONANT CLANGS, AND RESULTING IN A FLASH OF NUMERALS RATHER THAN A SPILL OF BLOOD... BUTTONS AND LEVERS, TRIGGERS AND KNOBS, SPRINGS... LOUD VOICES OF DISMAY AND ANGER..."

"...HARSH LAUGHTER AND SHOUTS OF JUBILANCE..."

"IT IS FASCINATING... BUT I AM CERTAIN I DO NOT UNDERSTAND THESE...GAMES."







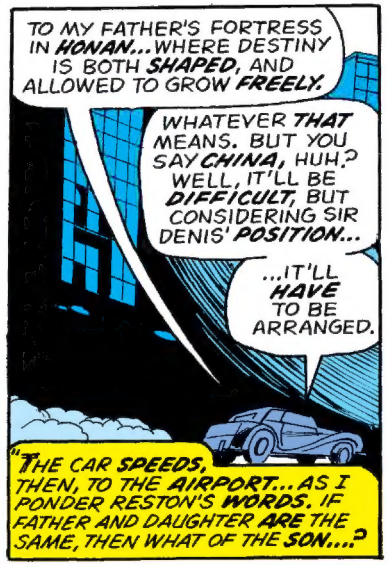


...IT WAS SENT BY MY HALF-SISTER.



THEN IT WAS FAH LO SUEE WHO ABDUCTED SMITH. LITTLE DIFFERENCE--SHE'S JUST AS CUNNING AND TREACHEROUS AS FU MANCHU HIMSELF. OR AS MY FATHER USED TO SAY--ALL CATS ARE GREY.

ANY IDEA WHERE SHE MIGHT'VE TAKEN SIR DENIS, CHI?

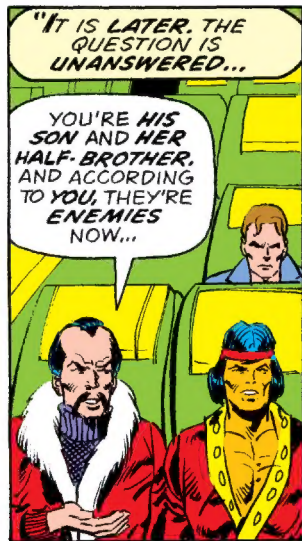


TO MY FATHER'S FORTRESS IN HONAN...WHERE DESTINY IS BOTH SHAPED, AND ALLOWED TO GROW FREELY.

WHATEVER THAT MEANS. BUT YOU SAY CHINA, HUH? WELL, IT'LL BE DIFFICULT, BUT CONSIDERING SIR DENIS' POSITION...

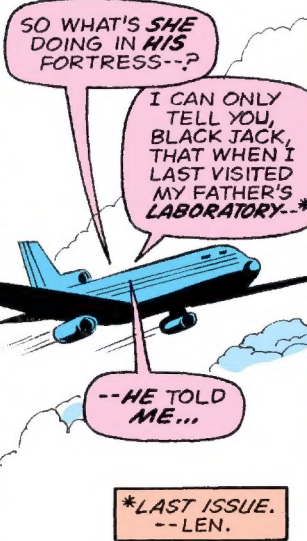
...IT'LL HAVE TO BE ARRANGED.

"THE CAR SPEEDS, THEN, TO THE AIRPORT... AS I PONDER RESTON'S WORDS. IF FATHER AND DAUGHTER ARE THE SAME, THEN WHAT OF THE SON...?"



"IT IS LATER. THE QUESTION IS UNANSWERED..."

YOU'RE HIS SON AND HER HALF-BROTHER. AND ACCORDING TO YOU, THEY'RE ENEMIES NOW...



SO WHAT'S SHE DOING IN HIS FORTRESS--?

I CAN ONLY TELL YOU, BLACK JACK, THAT WHEN I LAST VISITED MY FATHER'S LABORATORY--*

--HE TOLD ME...

*LAST ISSUE. --LEN.



I AM INNOCENT, SHANG-CHI...THOUGH ONLY BY CIRCUMSTANCE.

HAD I WISHED TO KILL THE MAN YOU SPEAK OF...HE WOULD NOW LIE DEAD.



BUT I DO NOT EVEN KNOW WHO HE WAS--AND IF HE DOES LIE DEAD, SLAIN BY A SI-FAN ASSASSIN, IT IS NOT MY DOING.

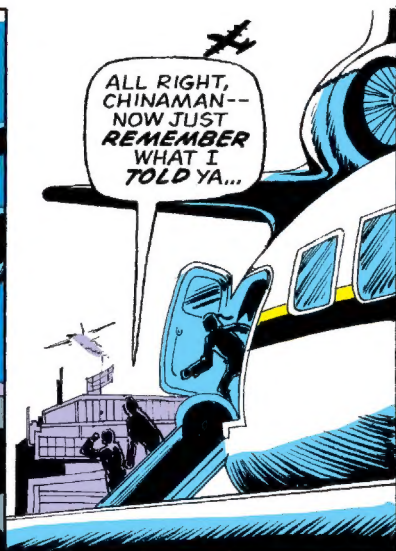
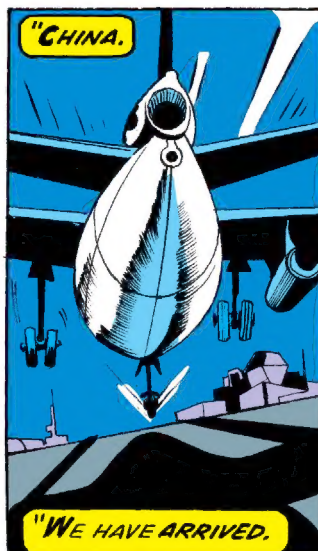
YOU SEE, SHANG-CHI, A LARGE SEGMENT OF THE SI-FAN NO LONGER OBEYS ME. THEIR LOYALTY HAS BEEN STOLEN BY THE OWNER OF THE HYPNOTIC RUBY EYES OF THE GOLDEN BEETLE.

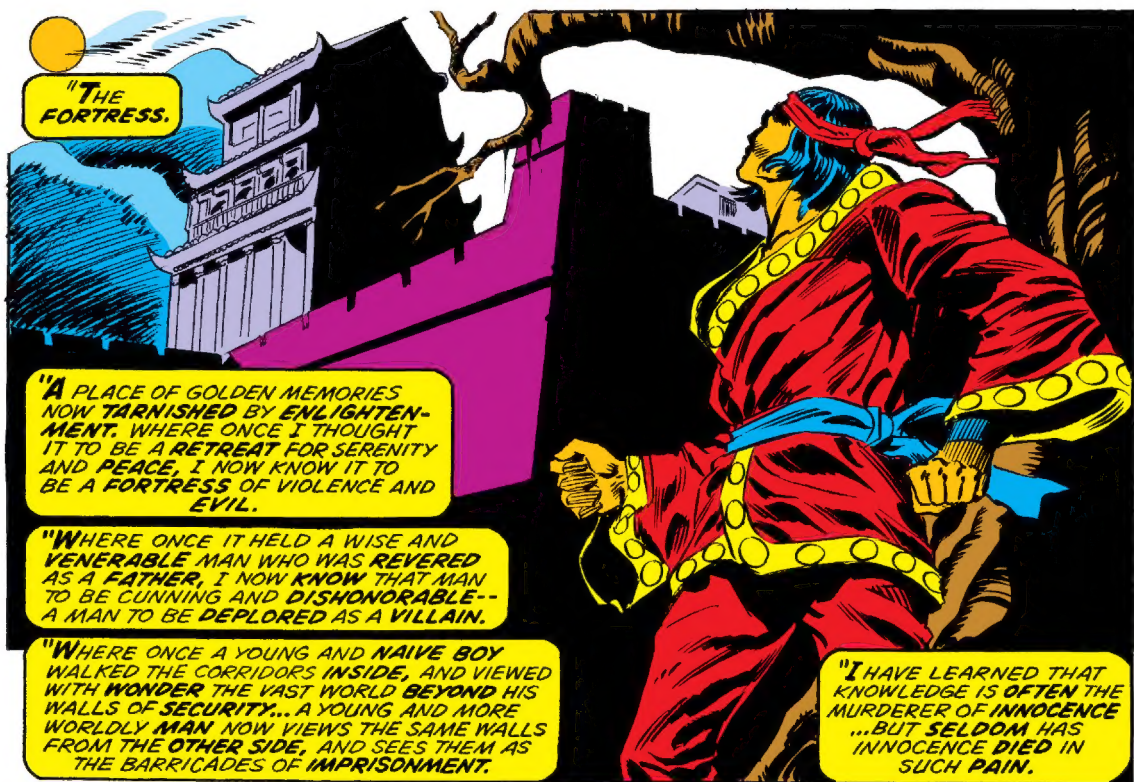


IN SHORT, THEY NOW OBEY FAH LO SUEE...

...EVEN IN SEEKING MY DEATH. AND THUS, A WAR APPROACHES, SHANG-CHI--A WAR BETWEEN FATHER AND DAUGHTER.

BEAR IN MIND THAT NEITHER OF US WILL HESITATE TO PLACE YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT WAR... AND SLAY YOU, IF NECESSARY.





"THE
FORTRESS.

"A PLACE OF GOLDEN MEMORIES
NOW TARNISHED BY ENLIGHTEN-
MENT. WHERE ONCE I THOUGHT
IT TO BE A RETREAT FOR SERENITY
AND PEACE, I NOW KNOW IT TO
BE A FORTRESS OF VIOLENCE AND
EVIL.

"WHERE ONCE IT HELD A WISE AND
VENERABLE MAN WHO WAS REVERED
AS A FATHER, I NOW KNOW THAT MAN
TO BE CUNNING AND DISHONORABLE--
A MAN TO BE DEPLORED AS A VILLAIN.

"WHERE ONCE A YOUNG AND NAIVE BOY
WALKED THE CORRIDORS INSIDE, AND VIEWED
WITH WONDER THE VAST WORLD BEYOND HIS
WALLS OF SECURITY... A YOUNG AND MORE
WORLDLY MAN NOW VIEWS THE SAME WALLS
FROM THE OTHER SIDE, AND SEES THEM AS
THE BARRICADES OF IMPRISONMENT.

"I HAVE LEARNED THAT
KNOWLEDGE IS OFTEN THE
MURDERER OF INNOCENCE
...BUT SELDOM HAS
INNOCENCE DIED IN
SUCH PAIN.



"FOR NOW I MUST CON-
FRONT THIS PLACE WHICH
WAS ONCE MY ENTIRE AND
CHERISHED REALM OF
EXISTENCE...

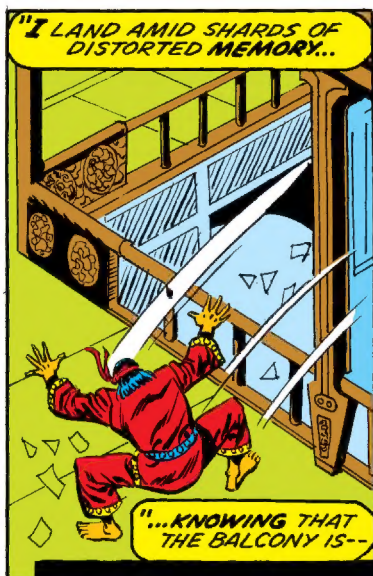


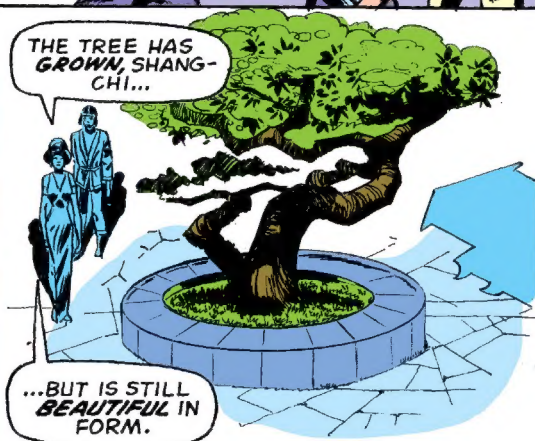
"...AND IN SEEKING TO RETURN
TO IT-- TO MY FORMER HOME--

"-- I MUST DEFILE
IT...



"...SHATTERING WHAT WAS
ONCE MY EYE TO THE
VAST WORLD BEYOND.





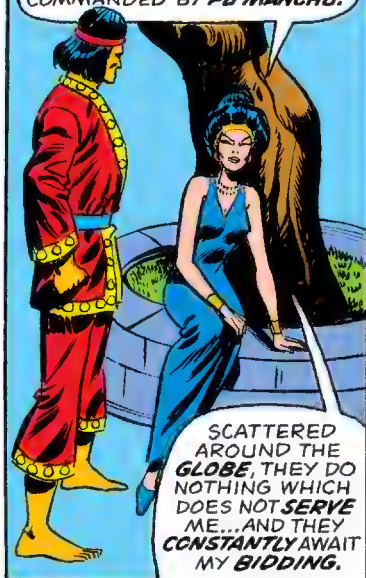
I AM IN POSSESSION OF THE **RUBY EYES**, SHANG-CHI... AND NOW **WEAR THEM AS EARRINGS**. EVERY **FACET** OF THE TWIN GEMS IS A **RIVER** THROUGH WHICH THE STRENGTH OF MY **WILL** MAY **FLOW**...



WITH THE **RUBY EYES**, I AM ABLE TO **CHANNEL** MY WILL INTO **OTHERS** WHO--UNLIKE **YOU**--ARE **WEAK OF SPIRIT**. THEIR WILL BECOMES **MINE**, AND THEY LOOK UPON ME IN **OBEISANCE** AND **OBEDIENCE**.



ALREADY I HAVE HYPNOTIZED A **LEGION** OF FOLLOWERS. I HAVE GATHERED AN ARMY OF SI-FAN TO **RIVAL** THOSE COMMANDED BY **FU MANCHU**.



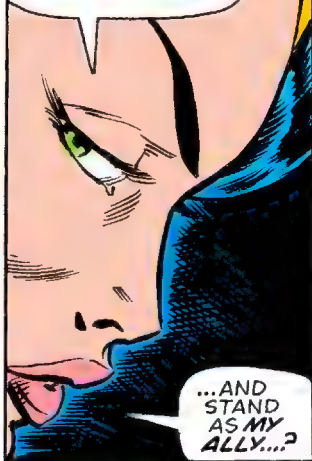
SCATTERED AROUND THE **GLOBE**, THEY DO NOTHING WHICH DOES NOT **SERVE** ME... AND THEY **CONSTANTLY** AWAIT MY **BIDDING**.

BUT EVEN THOUGH I HAVE **OVER-TAKEN THIS FORTRESS** IN OUR FATHER'S **ABSENCE**, I AM NOT YET CERTAIN THAT I MAY **DE-FEAT** FU MANCHU IN **DIRECT CONFRONTATION**. I NEED AN **ALLY**, SHANG-CHI--A **STRONG** ONE...



I ONCE TOLD YOU THAT **SOMEDAY** YOU WOULD HAVE TO MAKE A **CHOICE**-- BETWEEN **FU MANCHU** AND YOUR GROWTH IN **OTHER DIRECTIONS**...

WILL YOU CHOOSE **TODAY**... **AGAINST** OUR FATHER...?



...AND STAND AS MY **ALLY**...?

AS I COULD NOT CHOOSE BETWEEN THE BEAUTY OF A **LARGE TREE** AND ONE **SMALLER**...



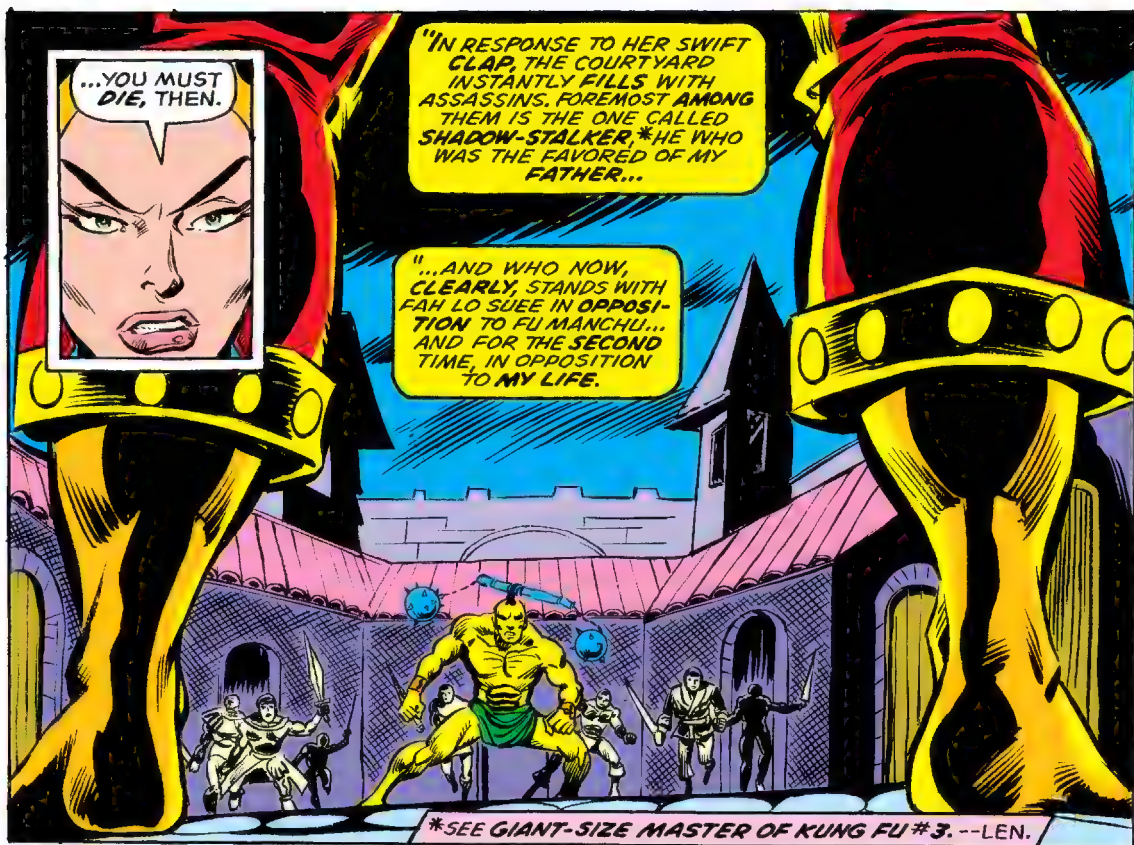
ARE YOU **CERTAIN**?

...I CANNOT **NOW** CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO FORMS OF THE **SAME EVIL**.

YES.

VERY WELL, LITTLE SPIRIT...



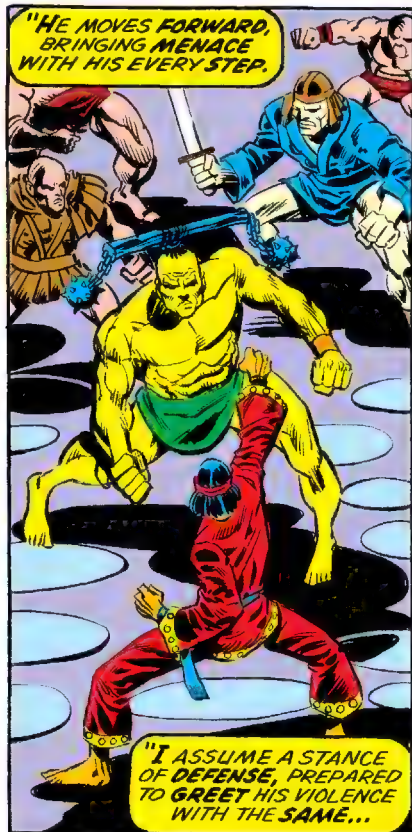


...YOU MUST
DIE, THEN.

"IN RESPONSE TO HER SWIFT
CLAP, THE COURTYARD
INSTANTLY FILLS WITH
ASSASSINS. FOREMOST AMONG
THEM IS THE ONE CALLED
SHADOW-STALKER, *HE WHO
WAS THE FAVORED OF MY
FATHER...

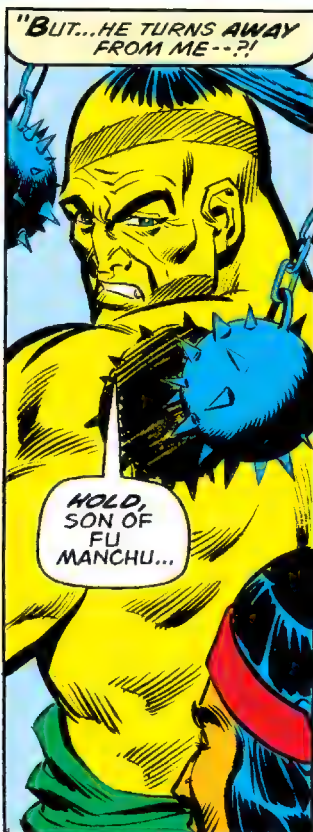
"...AND WHO NOW,
CLEARLY, STANDS WITH
FAH LO SUEE IN OPPOSI-
TION TO FU MANCHU...
AND FOR THE SECOND
TIME, IN OPPOSITION
TO MY LIFE.

*SEE GIANT-SIZE MASTER OF KUNG FU #3. --LEN.



"HE MOVES FORWARD,
BRINGING MENACE
WITH HIS EVERY STEP.

"I ASSUME A STANCE
OF DEFENSE, PREPARED
TO GREET HIS VIOLENCE
WITH THE SAME...



"BUT...HE TURNS AWAY
FROM ME--?!"

HOLD,
SON OF
FU
MANCHU...



THIS TIME WE
SHALL FIGHT
TOGETHER...

...EACH
GUARDING
THE OTHER'S
BACK.

"THE OTHER ASSASSINS HAVE NOT EXPECTED THIS, AND NOW STAND TOO STUNNED TO MOVE, AND THOUGH SHE TRIES TO BELIEVE IT, SURPRISE ALSO FILLS MY SISTER..."

YOUR WILL IS STRONGER THAN I REALIZED, SHADOW-STALKER... BUT TREACHERY IS YOUR WEAKNESS...

...AND CANNOT WITHSTAND THE TEST OF DEATH.

SLAY THEM BOTH--!!

AND DO NOT REST UNTIL THE COURTYARD SWIMS WITH THEIR MINGLED BLOOD!!

WE ARE TWO, SHANG-CHI...

...AND THEY ARE BUT TWELVE. ARE YOU PREPARED?

I WAS PREPARED, SHADOW-STALKER, WHEN THEY WERE THIRTEEN.

"THEY MOVE SLOWLY, WARILY... SEEKING A LAPSE IN OUR DEFENSE. THUS, THEY HAVE ONLY FORFEITED THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE, AND HAVE ALLOWED US TO STRENGTHEN OUR DEFENSE."

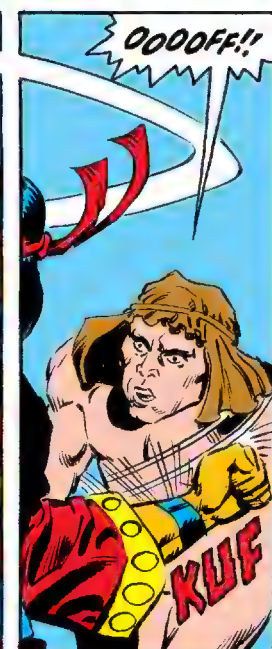
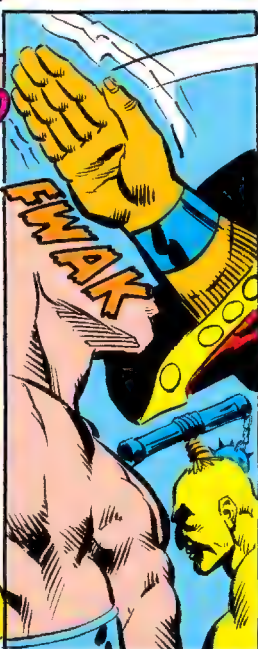
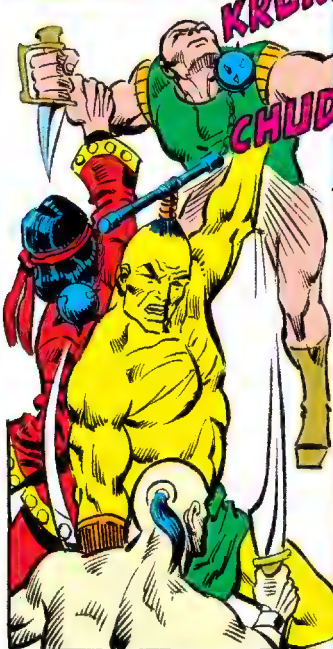
"A CIRCLE... AFRAID THAT ITS CORE WILL EXPLODE."

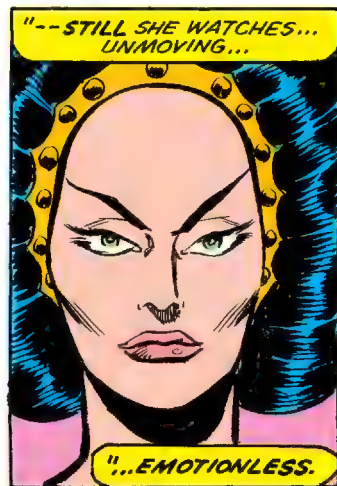
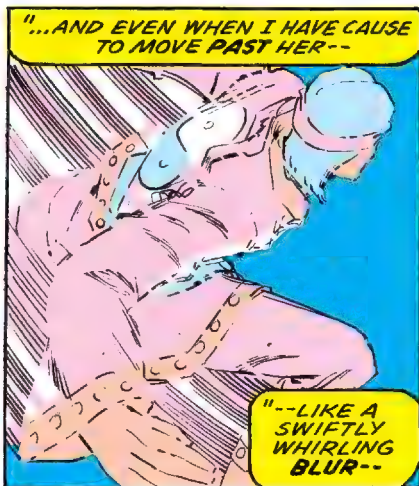
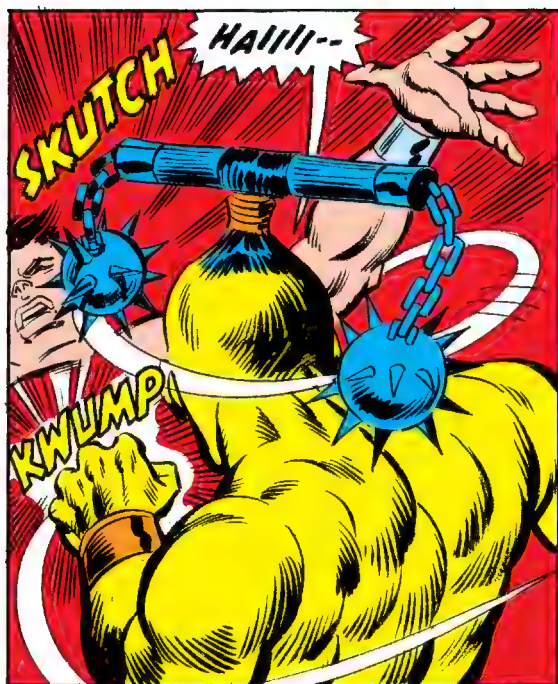
WHY DO YOU HESITATE--?!

ATTACK THEM!!

YES, MY BROTHERS...

THE TIME IS NOW...





"...AS ALL OF THEM HAVE FALLEN, IN WAVES OF BLOOD LARGELY SPILLED BY THE CONFUSION OF THEIR OWN WEAPONS. MY SISTER, OF COURSE, HAS BEEN GONE FOR SEVERAL MINUTES NOW..."

WHY DID YOU JOIN ME, SHADOW-STALKER?

WHEN LAST WE MET, YOU DEFEATED ME. IN ANOTHER CONTEST, I MIGHT DEFEAT YOU, SHANG-CHI...

BUT TOGETHER, WE COULD FACE ANYONE WITHOUT FEAR OF DEFEAT.

THE LEGION OF SI-FAN HAS BEEN DIVIDED BETWEEN FATHER AND DAUGHTER-- BUT EACH FACTION FOLLOWS BLINDLY, MERELY BECAUSE THEY FEAR THEIR LEADERS. BUT WE COULD COMMAND THEIR RESPECT, SHANG-CHI-- WE COULD BECOME THE LEADERS TO WHICH THE SI-FAN WOULD RALLY AS NEVER BEFORE. AND TOGETHER, WE COULD DEFEAT BOTH FU MANCHU AND FAH LO SUEE.

FOR WHAT REASON, SHADOW-STALKER? TO END THEIR EVIL?

TO END THEIR LIVES--AND TO WIELD THEIR COMBINED POWER AS OUR OWN.

THEN MY ANSWER IS NO, SHADOW-STALKER. I DO NOT SEEK POWER.

I SEEK ONLY PEACE.

THEN I WILL LEAVE YOU IN PEACE, SON OF FU MANCHU... FOR NOW.

BUT WHEN NEXT WE MEET, THERE WILL BE NO PEACE ON EARTH WHICH MAY PRESERVE BOTH OUR LIVES.

THAT IS YOUR CHOICE, SHADOW-STALKER, AND ONE I REGRET...

BUT YOU HAVE MY WORD THAT I WILL NEXT GREET YOU IN THE SPIRIT WITH WHICH YOU GREET ME.

FAREWELL, SHANG-CHI...

YOU WILL FIND THE ENGLISHMAN DOWN IN THE--



"--DUNGEONS.

NAYLAND
SMITH--!

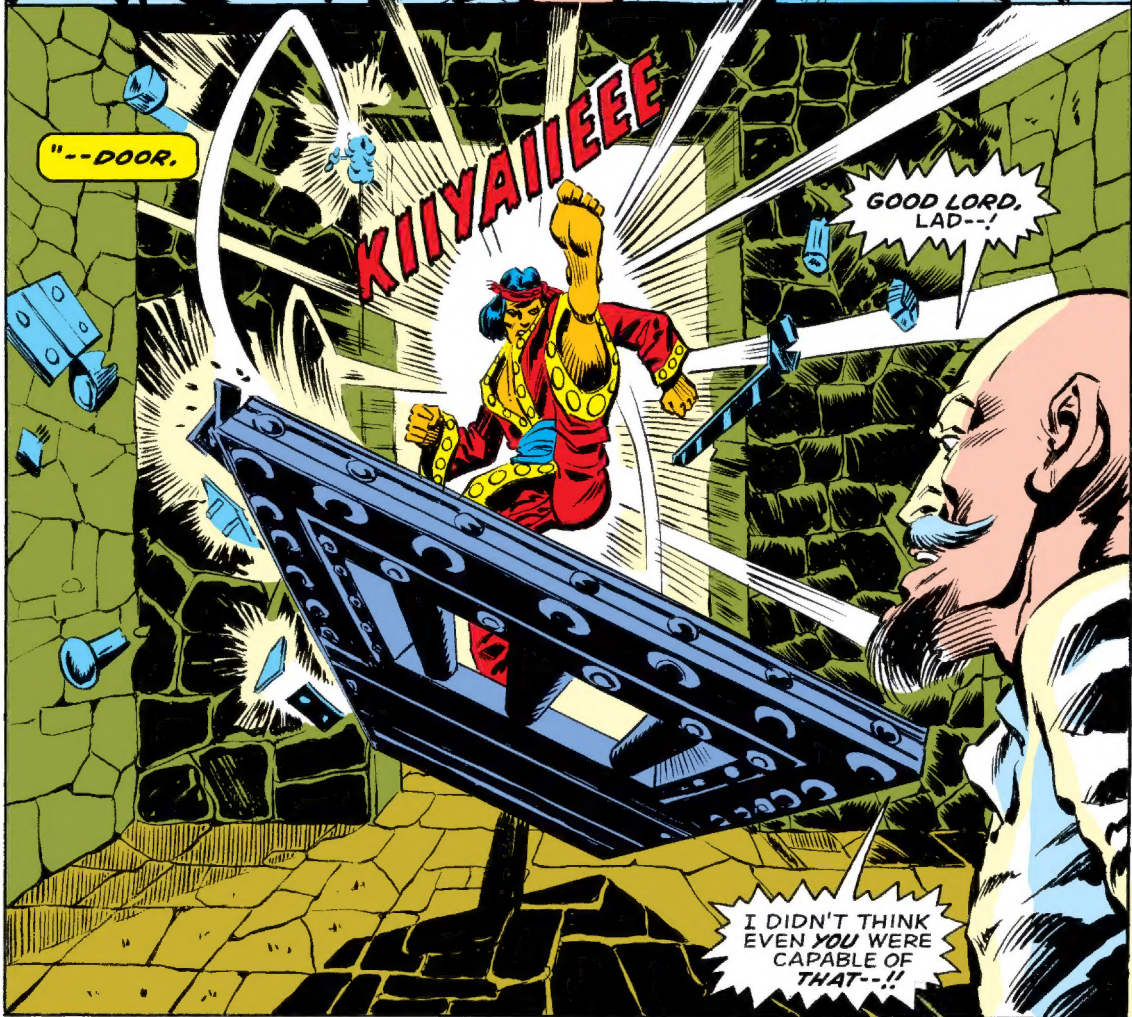


SHANG-
CHI...?

SHANG-CHI--
IS THAT
YOU--??



STAND **BACK**,
SMITH...AWAY
FROM THE--

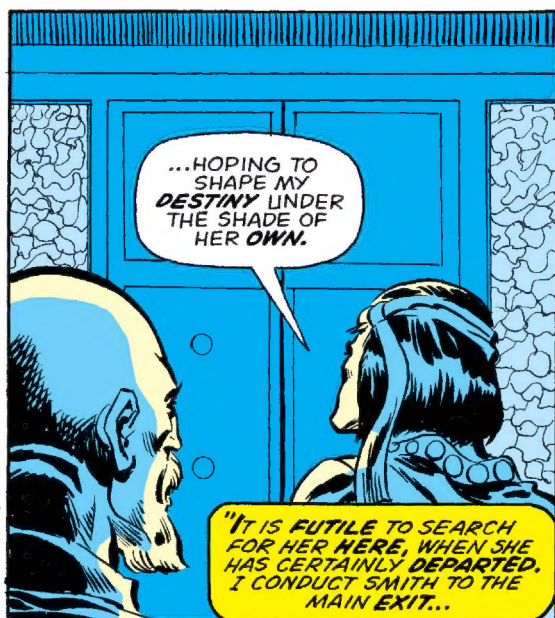


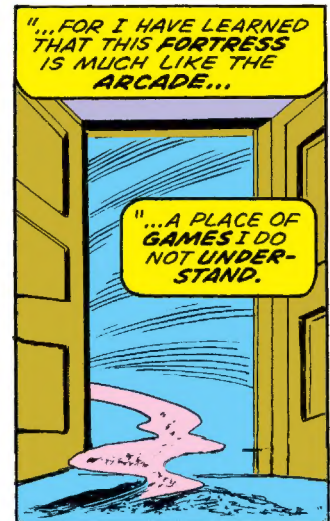
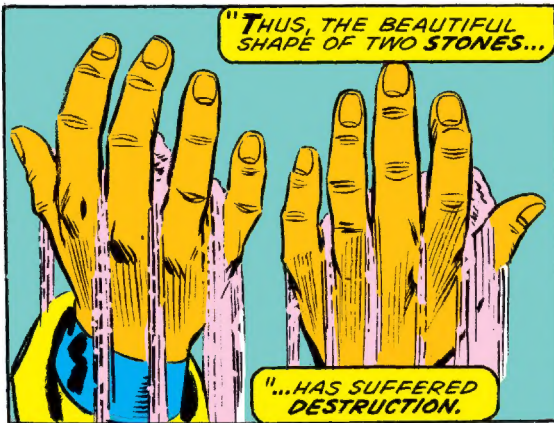
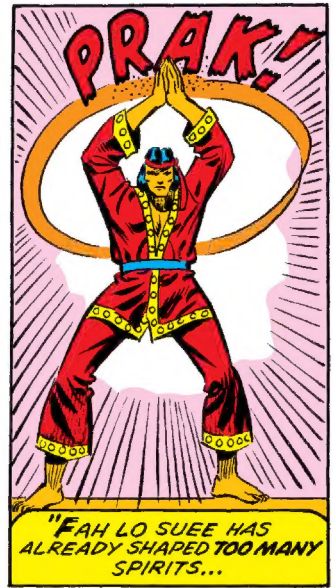
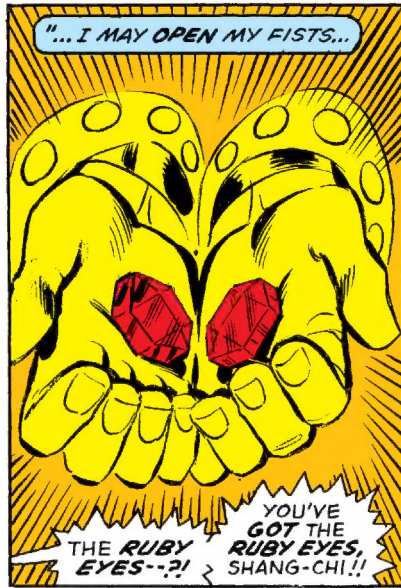
"--DOOR.

KIIYAIIEEE

GOOD LORD,
LAD--!

I DIDN'T THINK
EVEN **YOU** WERE
CAPABLE OF
THAT--!!





NEXT ISSUE: PAUL GULACY RETAINS DOUG MOENCH TO LAUNCH A DYNAMIC NEW DIRECTION FOR SHANG-CHI, A UNIQUELY INNOVATIVE CYCLE OF SLICKLY BLISTERING ACTION AND DAZZLINGLY GLOSSY EXCITEMENT! IT ALL BEGINS WITH THE 3-PART MAGNUM OPUS RESPECTIVELY ENTITLED: 1) THE CRYSTAL CONNECTION; 2) SNOWBUSTER; AND 3) A GULF OF LIONS! **BE HERE!!**

Shadowcat

